



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
2202 Roosevelt Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78210 (210) 534-8833



The National Park Service offers the following information so you can better plan your time with us.

How much time will I need to visit?

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In order to truly explore and experience this unique park, we recommend you spend 1½ to 2 hours at Mission San José and the Park Visitor Center. The other three missions can be viewed in 30-40 minutes each. If you have limited time, Mission San José and the Park Visitor Center are a must. Mission Concepción with the oldest unrestored stone church in the United States is also not to be missed.

Where can I get general information?

A Park Ranger or Volunteer/Docent is available to help and to give you an orientation at each mission.

For adult group or school reservations you may: 1) call (210) 932-1002, extension 226; 2) contact us through our email address at <saan_education@nps.gov>; 3) fax your proposed schedule to (210) 932-0254. Use www.nps.gov/saan to find more information on the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

How can kids become Junior Park Rangers?

Ask for a Junior Ranger Activity Book and "Official Map and Guide" available at any of the visitor information centers and allow about 3 hours to visit at least two of the missions. Read the interpretive signs found throughout each mission and the "Official Map and Guide" brochure to learn the answers to the questions and to complete the activities in the book. Watch *Gente de Razón* at the San José Visitor Center or *Los Pastores* at Mission Concepción and participate in a guided tour or listen to a talk. Turn in the completed activity book at the last mission you visit and receive a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

Are there any trails?

The Hike and Bike Trail runs from just south of Mission Concepción to Mission San Juan. You can pick up a brochure on this trail at all mission visitor information centers.

The Yanaguana Trail at Mission San Juan is an accessible trail covering 3/10 of a mile along the banks of the San Antonio River. A trail guide is available for purchase for 50 cents at the San Juan Visitor Information Center.

Where can I shop?

The Spanish Colonial Bookstore has a large selection of books relating to that historical era. The main store is within the compound of Mission San José, with a small outlet in the Park Visitor Center and at Mission Concepción.

The profits from this store are returned to the park for educational and research programs.

Can I attend a church service?

Yes. Regular services are held Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings at Mission San José (the 12-noon Sunday service is the Mariachi Mass). Mission San Juan's Sunday mass is at 10:30 a.m. Mission Concepción celebrates mass each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The churches are generally closed to visitors during funerals, baptisms and weddings, so please respect parishioners' wishes by remaining outside until the service is over.

Where can I eat?

Picnic tables are located at Mission San José, Mission San Juan, Mission Espada, Espada Park, and Acequia Park. Please do not picnic in the mission compounds. Food service is available along Military Drive, Roosevelt Avenue, and other major streets near Mission Concepción and Mission San José. However, make sure you have enjoyed a lunch or take one with you before heading to Mission San Juan or Mission Espada, as there is no food service near these missions.

What else should I look for?

Take the scenic Mission Parkway drive along the San Antonio River. While it is not the original river (it has been channelized over the years) you can see wildlife - especially birds. Mission Parkway connects all 4 of the missions and the Espada Aqueduct.

The Espada Acequia (irrigation system) is still operational after 260 years. The Old Espada Dam is located in Espada Park across from the New Espada Dam along a pretty part of the parkway. Also, see the Espada Aqueduct, which carries the Espada Acequia across Piedras Creek (see Official Map and Guide).

And if I need help?

Many visitors have trouble with the heat and strong sun in south Texas. Wear a hat, drink lots of water, watch out for fire ants (they bite), and do not leave your pet in your vehicle (pets are allowed if on a leash). Contact a Ranger if you have any problems. Our phone numbers are (210) 932-1001 or (210) 534-8833. The TTY line is (210) 932-0254. In an emergency, call 911.

Construction:

Mission San José is also undergoing some major preservation work this year. While the mission is open, please be aware of construction work within the compound. If you have any questions, please contact a park ranger. We are sorry for any inconvenience.